

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10663 122136Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1653
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS PARIS 10663

E. O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: PFOR, FR, US, XH
SUBJECT: GISCARD'S PRESS CONFERENCE: EAST-WEST
RELATIONS.

1. REPLYING TO A QUESTION DURING HIS APRIL 12 PRESS
CONFERENCE INVIDIOUSLY COMPARING PRESIDENT CARTER'S
RECEPTION OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS WITH HIS OWN, GISCARD
DESCRIBED THE FRENCH CONCEPT OF DETENTE. FRANCE IS
SEEKING A BETTERING OF ITS RELATIONS WITH THE EAST
AND NOT AN IDEOLOGICAL CONQUEST. BUT, HE ADDED, WHEN
MR. CARTER WISHES TO INTRODUCE A CLEARER AND MORE
PRECISE CONCEPT OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN, HE WILL FIND
ACTIVE FRENCH PARTICIPATION. FRANCE WILL MANIFEST ITS
REPROBATION FOR ACTIONS INTENDED TO PERSECUTE
INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS OF INDIVIDUALS WHO, WITHIN THEIR
COUNTRY, ASK FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE HELSINKI
ACCORDS.

2. HOWEVER, WHEN IT IS A MATTER OF STATE TO STATE
RELATIONS, FRANCE WILL NOT INTERVENE IN SPECIAL
SITUATIONS WITHIN STATES. TO WISH TO INTERVENE
PUBLICLY IN SPECIAL CASES IS TO BELIEVE THAT ONE
COULD MAKE A COUNTRY LIKE THE USSR PULL BACK. IT
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MIGHT CAUSE THE SOVIETS TO BE EVEN HARDER ON DISSIDENTS.
FRANCE IS A LAND OF ASYLUM, GISCARD SAID AND HAS
LESSONS TO LEARN FROM NO ONE: THERE ARE 5000 CHILEAN
REFUGEES HERE, MORE THAN IN ALL OF EASTERN EUROPE;
25,000 RESIDENT VIETNAM REFUGEES ARE BEING JOINED BY
1000 MORE EACH MONTH; A TOTAL OF 140,000 POLITICAL
REFUGEES LIVE IN FRANCE.

3. INTERROGATED ON SOVIET-US MILITARY STRENGTH,
GISCARD SAID THAT THE SOVIET MILITARY EFFORT HAS ITS
ORIGINS ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO AT THE TIME OF THE CUBAN
MISSILE CRISIS. HE DID NOT THINK THERE IS A SIGNIFI-
CANT DISEQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN THE US AND USSR, BUT IN
SOME FIELDS THE SOVIETS ARE WORRIED.
GAMMON

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